

New insulator range a big hit with farmers

MOST farmers or fencing contractors are likely to agree, there is already an abundance of fence insulators on the market, all fairly similar in appearance with old designs remaining unchanged for years.

With this said, one may wonder why nationwide demand for Strainrite's new patented Joule Shield insulator range continues to soar since it was launched at the 2009 National Fieldays.

The reality is that limitations have become more apparent with existing insulator designs as energiser technology has continued to develop. Modern energisers generally have far greater power output than older models.

While this provides more efficient and effective stock control, it also puts far greater demand on insulator efficiency. This results in power loss and subsequently, affects the efficiency of the fence.

Where existing design insulators were effective with these earlier low output energisers, they no

longer provide the same effective performance with modern energisers.

So what sets these Joule Shield Insulators apart from the rest? Strainrite Fencing Systems managing director Maurice Wooster said: "The technology behind the multi-shield design is not rocket science. This can be seen on high voltage power line insulators, which all have multiple shield plates for the same reason. We are just the first to apply the concept to fence insulators!"

These multiple shield plates significantly increase the surface area and effective tracking distance, greatly reducing potential for power leakage.

Independent tests showed the Joule Shield claw insulator outperformed other well known brand insulators by withstanding a staggering 100 per cent greater voltage in wet (simulated rain) conditions. This significant advantage comes into its own as insulators are installed and



exposed to normal contaminants such as dust and salt spray which effectively reduce insulator performance. The new Joule Shield insulators are structurally designed with a

low profile, and are manufactured in New Zealand from high quality, impact resistant, UV stabilised polymers, suitable for the harshest environments. Strainrite recently sent Joule

The Joule Shield Insulator... made with high quality, impact resistant, UV stabilised polymers, suitable for the harshest environments.

Shield insulator sample packs! rural addresses throughout the country together with vouchers for an extra 25 per cent free Joule Shield product.

Mr Wooster said: "We are proud to support the New Zealand agricultural industry and as a result, the fantastic response from farmers endorsing these new products, we have extended the promotion offer until November 30".

The products are stocked numerous rural supplies stores throughout New Zealand and can be ordered by request through other rural merchants if not stocked.

More details on the November JouleShield promotion can be found at www.strainrite.co.nz or call 0800 266 258.



The Tirez Triband Castrator.

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Traditionally, farmers have used either knife cutting or sheep elastrators - knife cutting sets animals back and will cost the farmer in extra feed cost to achieve the same weight. Elastrator castrating is done with a sheep ring applicator. This means due to its size and small ring, it is done too early, meaning the stock lose testosterone benefits and grow slower.

Beef production is all about getting maximum pasture conversion on a minimum number of hoooves. Aside from the Tirez Triband Castrator, TechniPharm also supplies the EZE large band castrator suitable for any size animal.

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Men urged to take 'large animal' course



Above: Student Laura Cook injecting cattle. Inset: Tutor Charlotte Hviid at the microscope.

WINTREC Institute of Technology in Hamilton has called for more men to take the newly established Large Animal Technology programme.

The course, in its second year, has so far only attracted women.

Wintec tutor Anne Baldock said Otago Polytech was the only other place running a Large Animal (rural technician) course and the reason for the lack of male students could be because they didn't know the course existed.

Ms Baldock, who has been a large-animal vet for 16 years, said the industry needed to be more balanced as some of the work was very physical.

She said there had been a bit of interest from male students for next year.

The entry criteria for the one-year full time course is a minimum of 24 NCEA level one credits, 12 of which must be in English and 12 must be in one subject area.

With a shortage of large animal vets the course aims to produce sufficient numbers of technicians to alleviate the problem of recruiting and retaining veterinarians in the rural sector.

Presently both vets and farmers were increasingly recognising the value of services offered by large-animal technicians, she said.

"We're fortunate to have the co-operation of local farmers, who make their animals and facilities available for demonstration of routine treatments such as dehorning and drenching, and also give students the opportunity to practice the treatments themselves," she said.

Ms Baldock said the programme recognised that stock handling ability was rated highly in the requisite skills required of a large-animal technician, so the hands-on experience provided was invaluable.

She said it was widely recognised that having a large animal technician on the job often meant time and cost savings for them and for the farmer.

Many veterinary practices were reviewing and expanding the range of services they provided to pastoral clients and making greater use of veterinary technicians to support the work of vets, she said.

The industry was keen to see the role of veterinary technicians in veterinary practices develop and improve.

Ms Baldock said large-animal technicians were likely to play an important part in the future of veterinary practice in New Zealand, and Wintec would continue make a significant contribution to the rural sector by encouraging more into this specialist training.

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